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THE COMMUNION-OFFICE

FOR THE USE OF THE

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND,

As far as concerneth the

MINISTRATION OF THAT HOLY SACRAMENT.

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¶ *The Exhortation.*

DEARLY beloved in the Lord, ye that mind to come to the holy Communion of the body and blood of our Saviour Chriſt, muſt conſider what St. Paul writeth to the Corinthians; how he exhorteth all perſons diligently to try and examine themſelves, before they preſume to eat of that bread, and drink of that cup. For as the benefit is great, if with a true penitent heart and lively faith we receive that holy ſacrament, (for then we ſpiritually eat the fleſh of Chriſt, and drink his blood; then we dwell in Chriſt, and Chriſt in us; we are one with Chriſt, and Chriſt with us;) ſo is the danger great, if we receive the ſame unworthily; for then we are guilty of the body and blood of Chriſt our Saviour; we eat and drink our own Damnation, not conſidering

the Lord's body; we kindle God's wrath againſt us; we provoke him to plague us with divers diſeaſes, and ſundry kinds of death. Judge therefore yourſelves, brethren, that ye be not judged of the Lord; repent you truly for your ſins paſt; have a lively and ſtedfaſt faith in Chriſt our Saviour; amend your lives, and be in perfect charity with all men: ſo ſhall ye be meet partakers of thoſe holy myſteries. And, above all things, ye muſt give humble and hearty thanks to God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghoſt, for the redemption of the world, by the death and paſſion of our Saviour Chriſt, both God and man, who did humble himſelf even to the death upon the croſs for us miſerable ſinners, who lay in darkneſs and the ſhadow of death, that he might make us the children of God, and exalt us to everlaſting life. And to the end that we ſhould always remember the exceeding great love of our Maſter and only Saviour Jeſus Chriſt thus dying for us, and the innumerable benefits which by his precious blood-ſhedding he hath obtained to us, he hath inſtituted and ordained holy myſteries, as pledges of his love, and for a continual remembrance of his death, to our great and endleſs comfort. To him therefore, with the Father, and the Holy Ghoſt, let us give (as we are moſt

bounden) continual thanks, ſubmitting ourſelves wholly to his holy will and pleaſure, and ſtudying to ſerve him in true holineſs and righteouſneſs all the days of our life. *Amen.*

¶ *Then the Preſbyter, or Deacon, ſhall ſay*

Let us preſent our offerings to the Lord with reverence and godly fear.

¶ *Then the Preſbyter ſhall begin the offertory, ſaying one or more of theſe ſentences following, as he thinketh moſt convenient by his diſcretion, according to the length or ſhortneſs of the time that the people are offering.*

IN proceſs of time it came to paſs, that Cain brought of the fruit of the ground an offering unto the Lord. And Abel, he alſo brought of the firſtlings of his flock, and of the fat thereof. And the Lord had reſpect unto Abel, and to his offering: but unto Cain and to his offering he had not reſpect. *Gen.* iv. 3, 4.

Speak unto the children of Iſrael, that they bring me an offering: of every man that giveth it willingly with his heart, ye ſhall take my offering. *Exod.* xxv. 2.

Ye ſhall not appear before the Lord empty. Every man ſhall give as he is able, ac-

cording to the bleſſing of the Lord your God which he hath given you. *Deut.* xvi. 16, 17.

Give unto the Lord the glory due unto his name: bring an offering, and come into his courts. *Pſal.* xcvi. 8.

Lay not up for yourſelves treaſures upon earth, where moth and ruſt doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and ſteal: but lay up for yourſelves treaſures in heaven, where neither moth nor ruſt doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor ſteal. *Matth.* vi. 19, 20.

Not every one that ſaith unto me, Lord, Lord, ſhall enter into the kingdom of heaven: but he that doth the will of my father which is in heaven. *Matth.* vii. 21.

Jeſus ſat over againſt the treaſury, and beheld how the people caſt money into it: and many that were rich caſt in much. And there came a certain poor widow, and ſhe threw in two mites, which make a farthing. And he called unto him his diſciples, and ſaith unto them, Verily I ſay unto you, that this poor widow hath caſt more in, than all they which have caſt into the treaſury. For all they did caſt in of their abundance: but ſhe of her want did caſt in all that ſhe had, even all her living. *Mark* xii. 41, 42, 43, 44.

Who goeth a warfare any time at his own charges? who planteth a vineyard, and eat-

eth not of the fruit thereof? or who feedeth a flock, and eateth not of the milk of the flock? 1 *Cor.* ix. 7.

If we have ſown unto you ſpiritual things, is it a great thing if we ſhall reap your carnal things? 1 *Cor.* ix. 11.

Do ye not know, that they which miniſter about holy things, live of the things of the temple? and they which wait at the altar, are partakers with the altar? Even ſo hath the Lord ordained, that they who preach the goſpel, ſhould live of the goſpel. 1 *Cor.* ix. 13. 14.

He who ſoweth ſparingly, ſhall reap alſo ſparingly: and he who ſoweth bountifully, ſhall reap alſo bountifully. Every man according as he purpoſeth in his heart, ſo let him give; not grudgingly, or of neceſſity: for God loveth a chearful giver. 2 *Cor.* ix. 6, 7.

Let him that is taught in the word, communicate unto him that teacheth, in all good things. Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatſoever a man ſoweth, that ſhall he alſo reap. *Gal.* vi. 6, 7.

Charge them that are rich in this world, that they be not high-minded, nor truſt in uncertain riches, but in the living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy: That they do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to diſtribute, willing to com-

municate; laying up in ſtore for themſelves a good foundation againſt the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life. 1 *Tim.* vi. 17, 18, 19.

God is not unrighteous, to forget your work and labour of love, which ye have ſhewed toward his name, in that ye have miniſtred to the Saints, and do miniſter. *Heb.* vi. 10.

To do good, and to communicate, forget not; for with ſuch ſacrifices God is well pleaſed. *Heb.* xiii. 16.

¶ *While the Preſbyter diſtinctly pronounceth ſome or all of theſe ſentences for the offertory, the Deacon, or (if no ſuch be preſent) ſome other fit perſon, ſhall receive the devotions of the people there preſent, in a baſon provided for that purpoſe. And when all have offered, he ſhall reverently bring the ſaid baſon, with the oblations therein, and deliver it to the Preſbyter; who ſhall humbly preſent it before the Lord, and ſet it upon the holy table, ſaying,*

BLeſſed be thou, O Lord God, for ever and ever. Thine, O Lord, is the greatneſs, and the glory, and the victory, and the majeſty: for all that is in the heaven and in the earth is thine: thine is the kingdom,

O Lord, and thou art exalted as head above all: both riches and honour come of thee, and of thine own do we give unto thee.—*Amen.*

¶ *And the Preſbyter ſhall then offer up, and place the bread and wine prepared for the ſacrament upon the Lord's table; and ſhall ſay,*

The Lord be with you.

Anſwer. And with thy ſpirit.

Preſbyter. Lift up your hearts.

Anſwer. We lift them up unto the Lord.

Preſbyter. Let us give thanks unto our Lord God.

Anſwer. It is meet and right ſo to do.

Preſbyter. It is very meet, right, and our bounden duty, that we ſhould at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto thee, O Lord, * [holy Father] Almighty, everlaſting God.

* *Theſe words* [holy Father] *muſt be omitted on Trinity Sunday.*

¶ *Here ſhall follow the proper preface, according to the time, if there be any eſpecially appointed; or elſe immediately ſhall follow,*

Therefore with angels and archangels, &c.

¶ *Proper Prefaces.*

¶ *Upon Chriſtmas-day, and ſeven days after.*

BEcauſe thou didſt give Jeſus Chriſt, thine only Son, to be born * [as on this day] for us, who, by the operation of the Holy Ghoſt, was made very man, of the Subſtance of the bleſſed Virgin Mary his mother, and that without ſpot of ſin, to make us clean from all ſin. Therefore with angels, *&c.*

* *During the ſeven days after Chriſtmas, ſay,* as at this time.

¶ *Upon Eaſter-day, and ſeven days after.*

BUT chiefly are we bound to praiſe thee for the glorious reſurrection of thy Son Jeſus Chriſt our Lord: For he is the very Paſchal Lamb which was offered for us, and hath taken away the ſin of the world; who by his death hath deſtroyed death, and by his riſing to life again, hath reſtored to us everlaſting life. Therefore with angels, *&c.*

¶ *Upon Aſcenſion-day, and ſeven days after.*

THrough thy moſt dearly beloved Son, Jeſus Chriſt our Lord; who, after his moſt glorious reſurrection, manifeſtly appeared to all his apoſtles, and in their ſight

aſcended up into heaven, to prepare a place for us; that where he is, thither might we alſo aſcend, and reign with him in glory. Therefore with angels and archangels, *&c.*

¶ *Upon Whitſunday, and ſix days after.*

THrough Jeſus Chriſt our Lord; according to whoſe moſt true promiſe, the Holy Ghoſt came down * [as on this day] from heaven, with a ſudden great ſound as it had been a mighty wind, in the likeneſs of fiery tongues, lighting upon the apoſtles, to teach them, and to lead them to all truth, giving them both the gift of divers languages, and alſo boldneſs with fervent zeal conſtantly to preach the goſpel unto all nations, whereby we are brought out of darkneſs and error into the clear light and true knowledge of thee, and of thy ſon Jeſus Chriſt. Therefore with angels, *&c.*

* *During the ſix days after Whitſunday, ſay,* as at this time.

¶ *Upon the feaſt of Trinity only.*

WHO art one God, one Lord; not one only perſon, but three perſons in one ſubſtance. For that which we believe of the glory of the Father, the ſame we believe of the Son, and of the Holy Ghoſt, without any difference or inequality. Therefore with angels, *&c.*

¶ *After which prefaces ſhall follow immediately this doxology.*

THerefore with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify thy glorious name, evermore praiſing thee, and ſaying, Holy, holy, holy Lord God of hoſts, heaven and earth are full of thy glory. Glory be to thee, O Lord, moſt high. *Amen.*

¶ *Then the Preſbyters ſtanding at ſuch a part of the holy table as he may with the moſt eaſe and decency uſe both his Hands, ſhall ſay the prayer of conſecration, as followeth.*

ALL glory be to thee, Almighty God, our heavenly Father, for that thou of thy tender mercy didſt give thy only Son Jeſus Chriſt to ſuffer death upon the croſs for our redemption; who (by his own oblation of himſelf once offered) made a full, perfect, and ſufficient ſacrifice, oblation, and ſatisfaction, for the ſins of the whole world, and did inſtitute, and in his holy goſpel command us to continue a perpetual memorial of that his precious death and ſacrifice until

his coming again. For, in the night that he was betrayed, [a] he took bread; and when he had given thanks, [b] he brake it, and gave it to his diſciples, ſaying, Take, eat, [c] THIS IS MY BODY, which is given for you: DO this in remembrance of me. Likewiſe, [d] he took the cup; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, ſaying, Drink ye all of this, for [e] THIS IS MY BLOOD, of the new teſtament, which is ſhed for you, and for many, for the remiſſion of ſins: DO this as oft as ye ſhall drink it in remembrance of me.

[a] *Here the Preſbyter is to take the paten in his hands:*

[b] *And here to break the bread;*

[c] *And here to lay his hands upon all the bread:*

after ſupper,

[d] *Here he is to take the cup into his hand:*

[e] *And here to lay his hand upon every veſſel (be it chalice or flagon) in which there is any wine to be conſecrated.*

The Oblation.

WHerefore, O Lord, and heavenly Father, according to the inſtituion of thy dearly beloved Son our Saviour Jeſus Chriſt, we thy humble Servants do celebrate and make here before thy divine majeſty, with theſe thy holy gifts, WHICH WE NOW OFFER UNTO THEE, the memorial thy Son hath com-

manded us to make; having in remembrance his bleſſed Paſſion, and precious death, his mighty reſurrection and glorious aſcenſion; rendering unto thee moſt hearty thanks for the innumerable benefits procured unto us by the ſame. And we moſt humbly beſeech thee, O merciful Father, to hear us, and of thy almighty goodneſs vouchſafe to bleſs and ſanctify, with thy word and holy ſpirit, theſe thy gifts and creatures of bread and wine, that they may become the body and blood of thy moſt dearly beloved Son. And we earneſtly deſire thy fatherly goodneſs, mercifully to accept this our ſacrifice of praiſe and thankſgiving, moſt humbly beſeeching thee to grant, that by the merits and death of thy Son Jeſus Chriſt, and through faith in his blood, we (and all thy whole Church) may obtain remiſſion of our ſins, and all other benefits of his Paſſion. And here we humbly offer and preſent unto thee, O Lord, ourſelves, our ſouls and bodies, to be a reaſonable, holy and living ſacrifice unto thee, beſeeching thee, that whoſoever ſhall be Partakers of this holy Communion, may worthily receive the moſt precious body and blood of thy Son Jeſus Chriſt, and be filled with thy grace and heavenly benediction, and made one body with him,

The Invocation.

that he may dwell in them, and they in him. And although we are unworthy, through our manifold ſins, to offer unto thee any ſacrifice; yet we beſeech thee to accept this our bounden duty and Service, not weighing our merits, but pardoning our offences, through Jeſus our Lord: by whom, and with whom, in the unity of the Holy Ghoſt, all honour and glory be unto thee, O Father Almighty, world without end. *Amen.*

¶ *Let us pray for the whole ſtate of Chriſt's church.*

ALmighty and everliving God, who by thy holy Apoſtle haſt taught us to make prayers and ſupplications, and to give thanks for all men; We humbly beſeech thee moſt mercifully to accept our alms and oblations, and to receive theſe our prayers, which we offer unto thy divine Majeſty; beſeeching thee to inſpire continually the univerſal church with the ſpirit of truth, unity, and concord: and grant that all they that do confeſs thy holy name, may agree in the truth of thy holy word, and live in unity and godly love. We beſeech thee alſo to ſave and defend all Chriſtian Kings, Princes, and Governors, and eſpecially thy ſervant our King, that under him we may be godly and quietly govern-

ed: and grant unto his whole council, and to all who are put in authority under him, that they may truly and indifferently miniſter juſtice, to the puniſhment of wickedneſs and vice, and to the maintenance of thy true religion and virtue. Give grace, O heavenly Father, to all Biſhops, Prieſts, and Deacons, that they may both by their life and doctrine ſet forth thy true and lively word, and rightly and duly adminiſter thy holy ſacraments: and to all thy people give thy heavenly grace, that with meek heart, and due reverence, they may hear and receive thy holy word, truly ſerving thee in holineſs and righteouſneſs all the days of their life. And we commend eſpecially to thy merciful goodneſs the congregation which is here aſſembled in thy name, to celebrate the commemoration of the moſt precious death and ſacrifice of thy Son our Saviour Jeſus Chriſt. And we moſt humbly beſeech thee of thy goodneſs, O Lord, to comfort, and ſuccour all thoſe who in this tranſitory life are in trouble, ſorrow, need, ſickneſs, or any other adverſity. And we alſo bleſs thy holy name for all thy ſervants, who, having finiſhed their courſe in faith, do now reſt from their labours. And we yield unto the moſt high praiſe and hearty thanks, for the wonderful grace and virtue declared in all thy ſaints, who have been the

choice veſſels of thy grace, and the lights of the world in their ſeveral generations: moſt humbly beſeeching thee to give us grace to follow the example of their ſtedfaſtneſs in thy faith, and obedience to thy holy commandments, that at the day of the general reſurrection, we, and all they who are of the myſtical body of thy Son, may be ſet on his right hand, and hear that his moſt joyful voice, Come, ye bleſſed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. Grant this, O Father, for Jeſus Chriſt's ſake, our only Mediator and Advocate. *Amen.*

¶ *Then ſhall the Preſbyter ſay,*

As our Saviour Chriſt hath commanded and taught us, we are bold to ſay,

OUR Father who art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth as it is in heaven. Giveus this day our daily bread. And forgive us our treſpaſſes, as we forgive them that treſpaſs againſt us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

¶ *Then the Preſbyter ſhall ſay to them that come to receive the holy communion, this invitation.*

YE that do truly and earneſtly repent you of your ſins, and are in love and charity with your neighbours, and intend to lead a new life, following the commandments of God, and walking from henceforth in his holy ways; draw near, and take this holy ſacrament to your comfort; and make your humble confeſſion to Almighty God.

¶ *Then ſhall this general confeſſion be made, by the people along with the Preſbyter; he firſt kneeling down.*

ALmighty God, Father of our Lord Jeſus Chriſt, maker of all things, judge of all men; We acknowledge and bewail our manifold ſins and wickedneſs, which we from time to time moſt grievouſly have committed, by thought, word, and deed, againſt thy divine Majeſty; provoking moſt juſtly thy wrath and indignation againſt us. We do earneſtly repent, and are heartily ſorry for theſe our miſdoings; the remembrance of them is grievous unto us; the burden of them is intolerable. Have mercy upon us, have mercy upon us, moſt merciful Father;

for thy Son our Lord Jeſus Chriſt's ſake, forgive us all that is paſt; and grant, that we may ever hereafter ſerve and pleaſe thee, in newneſs of life, to the honour and glory of thy name, through Jeſus Chriſt our Lord. *Amen.*

¶ *Then ſhall the Preſbyter, or the Biſhop, (being preſent), ſtand up, and, turning himſelf to the people, pronounce the abſolution, as followeth.*

ALmighty God, our heavenly Father, who, of his great mercy, hath promiſed forgiveneſs of ſins to all them who with hearty repentance and true faith turn unto him; Have mercy upon you; pardon and deliver you from all your ſins; confirm and ſtrengthen you in all goodneſs; and bring you to everlaſting life, through Jeſus Chriſt our Lord. *Amen.*

¶ *Then ſhall the Preſbyter alſo ſay,*

Hear what comfortable words our Saviour Chriſt ſaith unto all that truly return to him.

COME unto me, all ye that labour, and are heavy laden, and I will give you reſt. *Matth.* xi. 28.

God ſo loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whoſoever believeth in him, ſhould not periſh, but have everlaſting life. *John* iii. 16.

Hear alſo what St. Paul ſaith.

This is a faithful ſaying, and worthy of all acceptation, that Chriſt Jeſus came into the world to ſave ſinners. 1 *Tim.* i. 15.

Hear alſo what St. John ſaith.

If any man ſin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jeſus Chriſt the righteous: and he is the propitiation for our ſins. 1 *John* ii. 1. 2.

¶ *Then ſhall the Preſbyter, turning him to the altar, kneel down, and ſay, in the name of all them that ſhall communicate, this collect of humble acceſs to the holy communion, as followeth.*

WE do not preſume to come to this thy holy table, O merciful Lord, truſting in our own righteouſneſs, but in thy manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy ſo much as to gather up the crumbs under thy table: But thou art the ſame Lord, whoſe property is always to have mercy. Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, ſo to eat the fleſh of thy dear Son Jeſus Chriſt, and to drink his blood, that our ſinful bodies may be

made clean by his moſt ſacred body, and our ſouls waſhed through his moſt precious blood, and that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. *Amen.*

¶ *Then ſhall the Biſhop, if he be preſent, or elſe the Preſbyter that celebrateth, firſt receive the communion in both kinds himſelf, and next deliver it to other Biſhops, Preſbyters, and Deacons, (if there be any preſent), and after to the people, in due order, all humbly kneeling. And when he receiveth himſelf, or delivereth the ſacrament of the body of Chriſt to others, he ſhall ſay,*

THE body of our Lord Jeſus Chriſt, which was given for thee, preſerve thy ſoul and body unto everlaſting life.

¶ *Here the perſon receiving ſhall ſay,* Amen.

¶ *And the Preſbyter or Miniſter that receiveth the cup himſelf, or delivereth it to others, ſhall ſay this benediction.*

THE blood of our Lord Jeſus Chriſt, which was ſhed for thee, preſerve thy ſoul and body unto everlaſting life.

¶ *Here the perſon receiving ſhall ſay,* Amen.

¶ *If the conſecrated bread or wine be all ſpent before all have communicated, the Preſbyter is to conſecrate more, according to the form before preſcribed, beginning at the words,* All glory be to thee, *&c. and ending with the words,* that they may become the body and blood of thy moſt dearly beloved Son.

¶ *When all have communicated, he that celebrates ſhall go to the Lord's table, and cover with a fair linen cloth that which remaineth of the conſecrated elements, and then ſay,*

Having now received the precious body and blood of Chriſt, let us give thanks to our Lord God, who hath graciouſly vouchſafed to admit us to the participation of his holy myſteries; and let us beg of him grace to perform our vows, and to perſevere in our good reſolutions; and that being made holy, we may obtain everlaſting life, through the merits of the all-ſufficient ſacrifice of our Lord and Saviour Jeſus Chriſt.

¶ *Then the Preſbyter ſhall ſay this collect of thanksgiving as followeth.*

ALmighty and everliving God, we moſt heartily thank thee, for that thou doſt

vouchſafe to feed us, who have duly received theſe holy myſteries, with the ſpiritual food of the moſt precious body and blood of thy Son our Saviour Jeſus Chriſt; and doſt aſſure us thereby of thy favour and goodneſs towards us, and that we are very members incorporate in the myſtical body of thy Son, which is the bleſſed company of all faithful people, and are alſo heirs through hope of thy everlaſting kingdom, by the merits of his moſt precious death and paſſion. We now moſt humbly beſeech thee, O heavenly Father, ſo to aſſiſt us with thy grace and Holy Spirit, that we may continue in that holy communion and fellowſhip, and do all ſuch good works as thou haſt commanded us to walk in, through Jeſus Chriſt our Lord; to whom, with the Father and the Holy Ghoſt, be all honour and glory, world without end. *Amen.*

¶ *Then ſhall be ſaid or ſung,* Gloria in excelſis, *as followeth.*

GLORY be to God in the higheſt, and in earth peace, good will towards men. We praiſe thee, we bleſs thee, we worſhip thee, we glorify thee, we give thanks to thee for thy great glory, O Lord God, heavenly King, God the Father Almighty; and

to thee, O God, the only begotten Son Jesu Christ; and to thee, O God, the Holy Ghost.

O Lord, the only begotten Son Jesu Christ; O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, who takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us. Thou that takest away the sins of the world, receive our prayer. Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy upon us.

For thou only art holy, thou only art the Lord, thou only, O Christ, with the Holy Ghost, art most high in the Glory of God the Father. *Amen.*

¶ *Then the Presbyter, or Bishop, if he be present, shall let them depart, with this blessing.*

THE Peace of God which passeth all Understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord: and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, be amongst you, and remain with you always. *Amen.*

FINIS.